



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

SEP 20 2007

Commissioner Lisa P. Jackson
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
PO Box 402
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0402

Dear Commissioner Jackson:

Thank you for your comments on the draft Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) [June 2007] for the Passaic River Source Control Early Action. In general, the comments we received from the Remedial Options Work Group were thoughtful and reflected the need to move forward on cleaning up this valuable resource that is the Passaic River.

We are working on revising the FFS to address the comments received. Because of the number of comments that require a substantial technical response, I am proposing to revise the schedule for the Source Control Early Action: Proposed Plan for public comment by June 2008, with a 60-day public comment period ending in August 2008. This schedule will allow us time to incorporate or respond to substantive comments, including performing additional analyses. My intent is to select a remedy in Autumn 2008.

This new schedule means that the October 2007 National Remedy Review Board meeting has been postponed until Spring 2008. We will contact you again when a new date is set.

The FFS is an important document, because it establishes the basis for taking an Early Action. I recognize the amount of time that you spent pointing out areas where the document can be strengthened. My proposed new schedule is an acknowledgement that we must also spend considerable thought incorporating your comments into the document, so that the Early Action can move into the Proposed Plan stage as a stronger remedy.

If you have any questions, please call George Pavlou, Director of the Emergency and Remedial Response Division, at 212-637-4390.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Alan J. Steinberg", is written over the typed name.

Alan J. Steinberg
Regional Administrator